



*Embassy of the United States,
Kigali, Rwanda*

PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Embassy in Rwanda Commemorates World AIDS Day

Nyagatare (December 1, 2021) - In honor of World AIDS Day 2021, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Rwanda Peter H. Vrooman joined officials of the Government of Rwanda in pledging, "Together, We End AIDS," at a commemoration that took place in Nyagatare, Eastern Province. Rwandan officials at the ceremony included the Minister of Health Dr. Daniel Ngamije, the Minister of Local Government Jean Marie Vianney Gatabazi, and the Director General of Rwanda Biometrical Center Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana. They were also joined by officials from the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, and people living with HIV.

"Because of U.S. partnership with Rwanda, Rwandans with HIV have anti-retroviral drugs, orphans are supported, young people are protected, and infants born to mothers with HIV/AIDS are saved," said Ambassador Vrooman. "Since 2004, the United States has provided nearly \$2 billion (2 trillion Rwandan Francs) to Rwanda to support the fight against HIV/AIDS," he added.

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Presidents' Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), is the primary partner to the Government of Rwanda in the prevention and treatment of HIV in Rwanda. The generosity of the American people and our collective public health engagement has saved more than 16 million lives worldwide and brought us closer than ever to controlling the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Achieving epidemic control will save more lives and reduce the future costs of the fight against HIV/AIDS. The U.S. government, through PEPFAR, has invested more than \$80 billion in the global HIV/AIDS response, the largest commitment made by any nation to address a single disease.

Here in Rwanda, we are proud to collaborate with the Ministry of Health, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, people living with HIV, and many others. With U.S. government support and collaboration with many partners, Rwanda is on pace to control the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This is a remarkable example of what is possible when we join hands with countries and communities. Together, we have the historic opportunity to make what once seemed impossible possible.

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The Embassy of the United States to the Republic of Rwanda houses the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Rwanda that includes officials of the U.S. State Department, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), representatives from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Defense, and U.S. President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).